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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. Asian Institute of Transport Development

(Special consultative status granted in 2002)

PART I. Introduction

AITD aims at balanced, equitable and sustainable development in the infrastructure sector for enhancing overall welfare. To achieve this, it fosters inter-country cooperation in south and south-east Asia through exchange of experience and knowledge. Its activities include research, studies and training both at the national and regional levels. The focus of these activities is: poverty alleviation, human resource development, regional integration, trade facilitation and eco-friendly systems.

With a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP) and a membership of 14 countries from south and south-east Asia, the Institute has, over the years, extended its reach and operational base. In November 2003, it became a founder member of the Asia-Pacific Network for Transport and Logistics Education and Research (ANTLER) established by UNESCAP. In 2004, it was nominated as the nodal agency by the member countries of Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral, Technical and Economic Cooperation (BIMSTEC) for training of their transport personnel. This role was subsequently extended to Mekong-Ganga Cooperation countries.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

(i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings.

The representatives of AITD actively participated in the meetings of working groups and committees organized by UNESCAP relating to managing globalization, transport and communications and infrastructure development. The important contributions that were made have been duly acknowledged in the proceedings of the respective meetings:

13-15 November 2002: Meeting of the Committee on Transport, Communications, Tourism and Infrastructure Development, Bangkok, Thailand. The representatives of AITD stressed the need for a better understanding of the transport-poverty linkages and agreed to share with the member countries the findings of its studies in this area. The Committee appreciated the collaborative relationship between UNESCAP and AITD in implementing the programme of activities of the secretariat under the Regional Action Programme and expressed satisfaction that the Institute was recently granted a special consultative status by the United Nations. The Committee also noted with appreciation the offer of AITD to share its extensive experience in the formulation of integrated intermodal networks with the member countries of UNESCAP.

19-21 November 2003: Meeting of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Bangkok, Thailand. The representatives of AITD offered to share the Institute's experience and expertise to undertake

corridor-based studies to formulate rational trade and transport policies and strategies in the member countries, in particular, the land-locked countries.

24-26 November 2004: Subcommittee Meeting on Transport Infrastructure and Facilitation and Tourism, Bangkok, Thailand. The representatives of AITD informed that the Institute had been nominated as the focal point for related activities in the BIMSTEC countries. The delegation also offered to share the findings of its study on transaction costs, access to markets and regional cooperation. It further informed the member countries that the Institute's training centre on multimodal transport would provide training to the personnel from south and south-east Asia.

12-14 October 2005: Meeting of the Committee on Managing Globalization, Second Session, Bangkok, Thailand. The Committee noted with appreciation the offer of AITD to share its study on intermodal choice as an aid to policy-making and its offer of free training to railway personnel.

(ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

11-12 November 2002: Meeting of the Working Group for Drafting Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network, Bangkok, Thailand. The representatives of AITD who had assisted in identifying the highway routes helped in building a consensus on the adoption of the proposed agreement.

16-17 October 2003: The Subregional Seminar on Intergovernmental Agreement on Asian Highway Network, New Delhi, India. The representatives of AITD contributed in the finalization of the agreement.

22-23 November 2004: Intergovernmental Meeting for Drafting Agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network, Bangkok, Thailand. The representatives of AITD helped in formulating guiding principles relating to technical characteristics of the Trans-Asian Railway network and agreed to host the meeting of the experts from south and south-east Asian countries in New Delhi, India.

18-19 April 2005: Experts Group Meeting on Trans-Asian railway in South Asia, New Delhi, India. The meeting was convened by UNESCAP in collaboration with AITD who also hosted the event. The representatives of AITD made substantive contribution in the formulation of the intergovernmental agreement on Trans-Asian Railway Network. The meeting requested the UNESCAP Secretariat to coordinate with sub regional international organizations and bodies, especially AITD, for organizing demonstration runs of container block-trains along the Trans-Asian Railway routes in the subregion.

(iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

In August 2003, AITD completed a study of socio-economic impact of highways on the incidence of poverty in the rural population residing in the neighborhood of these roads. The empirical study carried out for the first time in Asia revealed that proximity to the highway results in greater

employment opportunities and income, better access to education and health facilities, increased access to amenities like sanitation and safe drinking water. In quantitative terms, it showed an increase in overall human well-being by 31 percent, and decrease in the incidence of poverty by 17 percent. These results have a significant bearing on devising strategies to achieve millennium development goals (MDGs).

14-15 April 2005: Conference on Transport and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), New Delhi, India. This conference was jointly organized by UNESCAP and AITD as a part of the agreed programme of ANTLER. Experts from – Bangladesh, China, Czech Republic, Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of China, India, Indonesia, Islamic Republic of Iran, Japan, Republic of Korea, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand – participated in the meeting. The seminal papers made an important contribution to the understanding of link between poverty and transport. The meeting starkly brought out that the abysmal condition of the rural poor is largely due to poor access and lack of connectivity.

In August 2005, AITD brought out a special issue of the Asian Journal focusing on Access, Transport and Poverty Linkages with contributions from acclaimed experts. The issue specifically explores the potential role of transport in achieving the millennium development goals. Poor communities place a high priority on accessibility to services, which, in turn, require effective transport systems to operate effectively. Enhancing the positive impacts and mitigating the negative impacts of transport will help achieve the MDGs, but other action is also required, including: increased research on transport-poverty linkages, strengthening institutional frameworks and building civil society capacity to participate in transport policy-making.

2. Association d'assistance aux grands handicapés à domicile

(Special consultative status granted in 2002)

The Association d'assistance aux grands handicapés à domicile (AAGHD) conducted a job analysis among personal assistants providing care for persons with severe disabilities, both at home and in centres. In response to the emergence of personal care services as a recognized occupation, AAGHD then developed, with the support of the National Centre for Training of Trainers and Course Design (CENAFIF), a training curriculum, teaching guide, materials and instructional organization guide and an evaluation guide for the Programme of Assistance for Older Persons and Persons with Disabilities.

From 2002 to 2005, four programmes were offered to train personal care assistants for older persons and persons with disabilities: three in Tunis (25 participants/training) and one in Sousse (in the centre of the country). Each programme lasted nine months. The participants were young people with no occupational skills, several of whom subsequently found employment in the private sector.

Continuation of the project Involvement of Women with Disabilities in Waste Reclamation, launched in 2000 with financing from the Global Environment Facility.

Several women with disabilities received training through this project. This sensitization and training in waste management and reclamation, which is a national and international concern, was greatly appreciated by the participants, who had the opportunity to learn an occupation and were able to become employed in the private sector through the creation of microprojects. This has provided them with a source of income, which was much needed, particularly as some of them are the breadwinners for their families.

During the period 2002-2005, AAGHD provided ongoing support to assist the people trained in finding work, appealing to professionals in the world of decor, design and advertising and even artists (painters) to create decorative articles and useful items made from recycled waste, including tables made from soft drink cans, baskets made from plastic bags and plastic bathmats. The objects created are inspired by traditional Tunisian arts and crafts.

These women are helping to instil new environmentally friendly behaviours in their neighbourhoods. They have also organized clean-up campaigns in their respective neighbourhoods (the Hafsia Quarter in the centre of Tunis, Quartier du 9 Avril and others).

Thanks to this project, the women are now selling their products at the various fairs organized by the Ministry of Social Affairs, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Women's Affairs and the city of Tunis. A retail outlet for their products has also been opened in the Hafsia Quarter. A website was set up to sell their products during the World Summit on the Information Society, and since then an increasing number of products made from recycled waste have been sold on the Internet.

Organization of seminars in April 2005 to study the work of personal assistants from the Gabès, Medenine and Sfax Associations, including site visits to identify training needs by shadowing them in their daily work.

Training of persons with disabilities: Following an attitude study, these persons were placed in the workshop of their choice: jebba (traditional Tunisian robe) embroidery workshop, mosaic workshop, sewing workshop, tapestry/carpet-making workshop, waste reclamation workshop, music workshop, literacy training workshop. These workshops are offered at a day centre located in the medina in Tunis. Each workshop is conducted by a trainer. The centre is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Drawing contest for children with disabilities, promoting environmental protection, 2000 to 2005. Each year on National Children's Day, 5 January, workshops have been organized for children with disabilities and their families to raise awareness of and promote environmental protection. A drawing contest, a performance (singing, dancing, etc.) and gifts are offered for all the children attending. This event takes place in one of the country's public parks: El Nahli, Radès, Mourouj, Belvédère or El Marsa.

Day centre for older persons and persons with disabilities, located in the city of Tunis, established in 2003. The centre was opened at the initiative of the President of Tunisia. It offers a number of workshops, including a mosaics workshop, a literacy training workshop for persons with disabilities and their families, a school support workshop for neighbourhood children, a music workshop, a

sewing workshop, and a computer and Internet workshop, as well as a training room where discussion groups are held.

Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United Nations meetings

August-September 2002: Earth Summit/World Summit on Sustainable Development, Johannesburg
Recycled products were exhibited at Tunisia's stand and were very well received. The project has been emulated by Benin, France and Lebanon, and there have been exchanges of experience. AAGHD also took part in the March against Poverty, which started at the Alexandria Stadium in Soweto and ended at the Convention Centre in Johannesburg.

17-21 August 2002: International Association for Volunteer Effort (IAVE), Barcelona
18th IAVE World Volunteer Conference. Presentation on the Tunisian volunteer experience.

19-25 September 2005: First Meeting of the Preparatory Committee on the World Summit on the Information Society (PrepCom-1), Geneva

November 2005: Participation in the World Summit on the Information Society, Tunis
AAGHD trained personal assistants and made them available, free of charge, to Summit participants with disabilities. The personal assistants welcomed these people at the airport and helped them throughout their stay. AAGHD also participated in the organization of the forum on disability.

United Nations/New York: Participation in the yearly work of the Economic and Social Council at United Nations Headquarters, June 2000, September 2001, January 2002 and September 2003.

April 2002: Arab Network for NGOs, Beirut
There were many exchanges with other associations. AAGHD presented its experience in providing home care for persons with severe disabilities.

April 2004: Damascus Special Olympics. Participation in a training session for personnel who work with children with mental disabilities.

AAGHD is a member of the International Association for Volunteer Effort, Special Olympics, the Arab Network for NGOs and Rehabilitation International.

3. Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlements

(Special consultative status granted 1998)

PART I. Introduction

Cohort for Research on Environment, Urban Management and Human Settlements (CREUMHS) is a non-profit education and research organization registered in Kenya as Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) since March 1993. It brings together scholars, researchers, professionals and public and private sector officials to integrate theory, practice and understanding of both environmental and human settlement policies, which significantly impact human welfare.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

World Summit on Sustainable Development, 26 August- 4 September 2002, Johannesburg (South Africa): Over 400 NGOs representatives were accredited through CREUMHS to participate in the Summit. CREUMHS participated actively in the Summit process, with its own special concerns for chapters 7, 21 and 28 of Agenda 21 (sustainable settlements, waste and sanitation, local authorities).

World Urban Forum 29 April to 3 May 2002, Nairobi (Kenya): The first session of the World Urban Forum was attended by representatives of over 500 NGOs. CREUMHS together with the United Nations Committee on Human Settlements of New York was the overall coordinator of the NGO host committee to the forum and co-convenor of the NGOs meetings during the World Urban Forum I.

World Urban Forum II 13 –17 September 2004, Barcelona, (Spain): In conjunction with president of the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG), CREUMHS representative convened a session linking researchers and survey professionals from developing countries with those from Europe and other developed economies to explore ways of collaboration in localizing the habitat agenda in the land and valuation surveying discipline.

Participation of CREUMHS in the work of the United Nations

United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP): Members of CREUMHS have over the reporting period taken part in consultations and communications with representatives of civil society constituencies, UNEP programmes, the Governing Council and the Committee of Permanent representatives (CPR) in developing a strategy for enhancing civil society engagements in the work of the UNEP.

The Global Civil Society Forum 1 – 2 February 2003, United Nations Offices in Nairobi CREUMHS representatives took part in the Global Civil Forums and made significant contributions to increase the number of African NGO networks and umbrella bodies to participate in the Forums.

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT): Representatives of CREUMHS took part in the Global Civil Society Forum, 3 –4 May 2003 in conjunction with the 19th Session of

the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT (Nairobi, 5 –9 May 2003). CREUMHS lobbied for the participation of civil society in future sessions of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT and partnerships between civil society and the UN-HABITAT. CREUMHS representatives organized parallel events to further articulate the key issues identified earlier as participation of civil society in future sessions of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT during the Nineteenth Session of the Governing Council of UN-HABITAT.

Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON), 6-12 December 2003, Addis Ababa (Ethiopia): CREUMHS representatives mobilized the members of African Civil Society to reaffirm and urge African governments to fulfill the commitments to achieving the Millennium Development Goal (MDG) number seven and the Johannesburg Plan of Implementation (JPOI) targets on water in Africa.

12th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN CSD) under the Major Themes Water, Sanitation and Human Settlements, 19 –30 April 2004, UN headquarters in New York: CREUMHS' delegates were part of the African Civil Society members who made presentation in the plenary of the African NGO statement made during the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON), held from 6 to 12 December 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

African Preparatory Meeting for the 6th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF), 16-17 November 2004, United Nations Office, Nairobi, Kenya, CREUMHS was a focal point in organizing this meeting which came up with recommendations and the Civil Society Organization (CSO) statement of the African Regional Civil Society to the GCSF meeting.

23rd Session of the UNEP Governing Council/Global Ministerial Environment Forum (GC/GMEF), 21 –25 February 2005, Nairobi, (Kenya) CREUMHS representatives participated as observers after successfully organizing and taking part in the African Civil Society Organisations' preparatory consultative meeting to the 6th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) held in Nairobi, Kenya on 19 – 20 February 2005.

United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification (UNCCD)'s seventh session of the Conference of Parties (COP 7), 17-29 October 2006, Nairobi (Kenya): CREUMHS joined other African CSOs in collaboration with Environment Liaison Centre International to coordinate CSO meetings and to draft the CSO statement to COP 7.

African Civil Society consultative meeting, 16th November 2005: CREUMHS was part of the UNEP's CSO partners organizing this meeting to prepare an African CSO position statement for presentation in the 7th Global Civil Society Forum (GCSF) held in February 5 – 6 2006 in Dubai. A CREUMHS representative was nominated to join the global CSO drafting group to the 7th Global Civil Society Forum.

8th Meeting of the Conference of Parties of the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals: 16th– 25thNovember 2005, Nairobi Kenya.

12th Session of the United Nations Commission on Sustainable Development (UN CSD), 19 –30 April 2004, United Nations headquarters in New York: CREUMHS' delegates were part of the African Civil Society members who made presentation in the plenary of the African NGO statement made during the Pan African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water (PANAFCON), held from 6 to 12 December 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

(i) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies in the field and at Headquarters.

World Habitat Day 3rd October 2005 (Nairobi, Kenya): CREUMHS called on the United Nations to promote the findings of the Panel of Eminent Persons on UN-Civil Society Relations which undertook an assessment of relations between the United Nations and civil society with the objective of formulating proposals to the Secretary-General for enhancing interaction between the Organisation and civil society. CREUMHS made an appeal to the UN HABITAT Executive Director to enhance and improve the ways in which participation of civil society actors from developing countries especially African countries can be facilitated in the programme of UN HABITAT.

As the 16th of February 2005 marked the beginning of a new era in international efforts to reduce the risk of climate change, CREUMHS recommended that the day should be celebrated like all other days of The United Nations System like the World Habitat Day.

(ii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of the MDGs

CREUMHS continued to monitor the implementation of the European Union (EU) Water Initiative for Africa – EU Strategic Partnership on Water Affairs and Sanitation Outline Strategy and 2004-2005 Work Programme as contained in the Working Document agreed between African Ministers' Council on Water (AMCOW-TAC) and the EU at the Pan-African Implementation and Partnership Conference on Water held on 8th – 13th December 2003 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

CREUMHS in partnership with the Global Water Partnership (GWP) through the Regional GWP offices in Kampala, Uganda, and the Kenya Water Partnership (KWP) continued between 2004 and 2005 to monitor the implementation of the Water Reforms and to support the achievement of the water targets of the MDG 7 aiming to provide safe, clean and accessible drinking water for all in the Eastern African Countries.

CREUMHS conducted activities in 2005 of dissemination of the relevant United Nations Document on the Right to Water.

During the reporting period 2002 and 2005 CREUMHS was involved in meetings with stakeholders including the Kenya Government and the UN HABITAT on slum upgrading and discussions on unraveling the difficulties in attaining the envisaged targets of the MDG 7.

4. International Environmental Law Research Centre

(Special consultative status granted in 2002)

Part I. Introduction

The International Environmental Law Research Centre (IELRC) is an independent, non-profit research organization established in 1995. It is an Association under Articles 60ff of the Swiss Civil Code. The aim of the IELRC is to contribute to the establishment of legal and institutional frameworks which foster sustainable environmental management in developing countries in an equitable international context. IELRC's mission is to undertake policy-related academic research relating to the environment in a North-South context. IELRC specifically seeks to contribute to the development of legal and institutional frameworks that foster equitable and sustainable environmental management at the local, national and international level by fostering links between research communities and policy-makers in the North and South. In the period 2002-2005, there has been no amendment to IELRC's Constitution. The only changes to be noted are new affiliations: 1) Accreditation with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), 2) Observer capacity with the World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO).

Part II: Contributions of IELRC to the Work of the United Nations

Over the period 2002 to 2005, IELRC has made a number of contributions to the work of different United Nations bodies. Nevertheless, it should be noted that the organization's capacity to attend meetings and make contributions to the work of the United Nations is limited by its small size. This report should be viewed against the limited staff and funding availability of the organization.

i) Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies

- 8 August 2003, Geneva: "Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights", 55th session. Oral contribution by a representative of the organization on food security and intellectual property rights. The statement was prepared collectively by 27 non-governmental organizations (NGO).

- 28 February – 2 March 2005, Geneva: "Expert Seminar on Democracy and the Rule of Law", Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. A representative of the organization prepared a background paper and made a keynote presentation, both entitled 'Access to Justice by Disadvantaged Groups'. The report of this Seminar is available as document E/CN.4/2005/58.

- 11-22 April 2005, New York: Commission on Sustainable Development, 13th Session. The IELRC Programme Director (Africa) was a panelist at the side-event Water & Global Security, speaking on Integrating Environmental Peacemaking in the Reforms of the United Nations.

ii) Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters

- 2002, Geneva: United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) & International Centre for Trade and Sustainable Development (ICTSD) Project on Intellectual Property Rights and

Sustainable Development. The project commissioned a case study on Food Security and Intellectual Property Rights in Developing Countries from the IELRC Programme Director (Europe).

- 25-26 February 2004, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia: First Meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity Serving as the Meeting of the Parties to the Cartagena Protocol on Biosafety. IELRC organized two side-events on liability and redress, entitled, "Why do we need an international liability regime for biotechnology?" and "Existing liability regimes and biosafety." IELRC also prepared a background paper for these events, "Liability and Redress in Biotechnology: Towards the Development of Rules at the National and International Levels."

- 2004, Nairobi, Kenya: The IELRC Programme Director (Africa) supported the initiative by the United Nations Environment Programme and the Department of Early Warning and Assessment (UNEP-DEWA) on environment and conflict prevention in the Great Lakes Region through a mapping of the environment and conflict linkages in the region.

- 2004 Geneva: IELRC participated in the Environmental Law Programme of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR).

- 2005 onwards, Geneva: Collaboration between the UNITAR Environmental Law Programme and IELRC in the context of the journal "Law, Environment and Development" (LEAD Journal), published by IELRC. LEAD Journal accepted submissions of outstanding environmental law final papers for its peer-review process.

- 19 April 2005, New York: the IELRC Programme Director (Europe) was a panelist at the United Nations University their publication, "Regulating Bioprospecting: Institutions for Drug Research, Access and Benefit-Sharing."

- 2005, Nairobi, Kenya: the IELRC Programme Director (Africa) contributed an external evaluation of the Phase II of the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Project on a Partnership for the Development of Environmental Law and Institutions in Africa (PADELIA).

Contribution to the work of other international organizations

- 25-27 October 2004, Prague: At the European Patent Office Annual Member States Meeting, the IELRC Programme Director (Europe) made a Keynote presentation entitled 'Integrating IPRs and Development Policy' at the Panel Discussion on the Report of the Commission on Intellectual Property Rights.

- 2004, International Plant Genetic Resources Institute (IPGRI): The Programme Director (Europe) was part of a three-member review team for the Centre-Commissioned External Review (CCER) of IPGRI's work on policy and legal aspects of genetic resources.

- 2005, New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD): The Programme Directors (Europe and Africa) wrote a background paper guiding the establishment of an African working group on intellectual property submitted to NEPAD's Steering Committee for Science and Technology.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals

IELRC is an organization which focuses on contributing to the realization of sustainable development through academic research, policy papers and publications which contribute to poverty alleviation in the global South. As such, all the research projects and outputs of the organization contribute to the realization of the Millennium Development Goals. Some examples of our activities contributing to the Millennium Development Goals during the report period can be given:

- Research focusing on legal issues concerning gender in drylands. One of the outputs included: "Achieving the Millennium Development Goals in the Drylands: Gender Considerations" (2005).

- Research focusing on wildlife and the legal issues concerning the conflicts of rights that may arise with local communities. One of the outputs includes: "Sustainable Management of Wildlife Resources in East Africa - A Critical Analysis of the Legal, Policy and Institutional Frameworks" (2005).

- Research focusing on the sustainable development aspects of intellectual property rights, in particular with regard to the introduction of intellectual property rights in agriculture. This resulted, for instance, in the publication of the following book in 2005: *Intellectual Property Protection and Sustainable Development.*

- Organization of a conference entitled 'Twenty years after the Bhopal disaster' with the School for Oriental and African Studies (SOAS). The conference was arranged to discuss the on-going legal consequences of the Bhopal industrial disaster. The Advisory Council Member (India) made a presentation on legal responses to the disaster (London, 23 October 2004).

- Research on the relationship between access to medicines and the introduction of medical product patents. One of the outputs included: 'Patents and Medicines: The Relationship between TRIPS and the Human Right to Health', an article published in *International Affairs* in 2003.

5. Population Reference Bureau

(Special consultative status granted in 2002)

PART I. Introduction

i). The Population Reference Bureau is a nonprofit, educational organization created in 1929, which serves as a bridge between researchers and policy audiences. PRB informs people around the world about population, health, and the environment, and empowers them to use that information to advance the well-being of current and future generations. Specifically, PRB analyzes complex demographic data and research to provide the most objective, accurate, and up-to-date population information in a format that is easily understood by advocates, journalists, and policymakers alike. To facilitate data use, PRB builds coalitions and conducts workshops around the world to give researchers and program staff the tools they need to communicate effectively about population issues.

PART II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

i). Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and/or major conferences and other United National meetings.

"The World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD)," 26 August - 4 September 2002 Johannesburg, South Africa. PRB mobilized 12 senior journalists from its global networks to cover the summit. Selected experts from the United Nations, official government delegations, and other international organizations spoke to the journalists about various sustainable development issues and helped prepare them to cover issues at the WSSD. PRB facilitated interviews between high-level individuals and the journalists including Nitin Desai (Secretary General of the WSSD), Klaus Toepfer (Executive Director of the United Nations Environment Program), Timothy Wirth (President of the United Nations Foundation), Jan Pronk (Special Envoy for the World Summit on Sustainable Development), and Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka (Executive Director of UN-Habitat). The journalists produced more than 100 stories, which appeared in prominent newspapers, wire services, and radio programs around the world.

"The Beijing +10 Conference," 28 February -11 March 2005, New York, UN Headquarters. PRB conducted a one-week news media seminar in New York for 12 women editors from around the globe to coincide with the first week of the Beijing +10 conference and to prepare them for covering the second week of the conference. The media seminar—entitled "Involving Men to Improve Reproductive Health"—focused on gender-based violence, family planning, and HIV/AIDS. Following the conference, the journalists produced multiple articles that featured issues, policy options, and program solutions highlighted during the conference.

ii). Cooperation with United Nations bodies and/or specialized agencies in the field and/or at Headquarters.

In 2002, PRB launched a project in collaboration with UNFPA to compile a database of key demographic, economic, and social indicators relevant to UNFPA programme priorities and resource mobilization needs for 163 countries. The database included indicators related to health, reproductive health, gender inequalities, and to identified target populations and programme priorities. The database was optimized to interface with a presentation format useful for UNFPA so as to facilitate dissemination in publications and via electronic media.

From 2003 to 2004, PRB continued to update 19 indicators for 163 countries and subsequently incorporate these into the Web database for UNFPA. In 2003, PRB also produced a publication—"Country Profiles for Population and Reproductive Health: Policy Developments and Indicators 2003"— and a complimentary CD-ROM, which were widely disseminated to UNFPA staff and country teams. Additional PRB responsibilities in this project include: liaising with data collecting and collating agencies of the UN system; maintaining ongoing consultations with UNFPA and with staff in other divisions in an internal review of technical issues and geographical relevance; liaising with other data collecting institutions for supplementary data not maintained by UN organizations; and making recommendations about presentation formats proposed by UNFPA and making design suggestions.

In 2005, PRB produced the 2005 version of the Country Profiles publication. Building on earlier editions, this publication features some 262 indicators for 163 countries and subregions, with

data grouped under the following categories: population, socioeconomic and health, adolescent reproductive health, gender equality, reproductive health commodity security, and internal disparities. This edition offers several new features, including data from 1990 to allow users to monitor progress of the ICPD Program of Action and Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). More data on health inequity have been included, as well as public expenditures on health and primary and secondary education. Country Profiles data are available online at www.unfpa.org/profiles.

- PRB sponsored the East and Southern Africa Women's Network journalists to cover the International AIDS Conference in Barcelona (Spain), 7 to 12 of July 2002. PRB held a one-day workshop to prepare the journalists to cover the conference. The highlight of the workshop was Dr. Peter Piot, Executive Director of UNAIDS, who met with the journalists, previewed the address he would give to open the conference the following day, and answered their questions.

- In September, 2004, PRB organized a workshop for East and Southern African Women journalists in Dar es Salaam, United Republic of Tanzania. The seminar on Critical Issues: Women's Empowerment and Reproductive Health, benefited from the opening speaker Dorothy Temu-Usiri, National Programme Officer of UNFPA, who spoke about the critical role that the news media can play in promoting gender equity.

- In November, 2005, PRB's Women's Edition senior editors met in New Delhi to discuss issues related to Sex Trafficking of Women and Girls. Archana Tamang, UNIFEM Regional Programme Coordinator (Anti-Trafficking) for the South Asia Regional Office, was the lead speaker. After the seminar, she teamed up with one of the journalists and the head of an NGO who also spoke at the seminar to form a national coalition of journalists against trafficking for the region. Ajit Joy, program coordinator on victim support and human trafficking in the local U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, also spoke about the challenges law enforcement officials face in combating trafficking.

iii) Initiatives undertaken by the organization in support of internationally agreed development goals, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals.

- As part of PRB's role to communicate relevant information to policy audiences globally, the team has produced the following publications. Each provide data and information to advance international development goals— especially the MDGs:

o Unmet Need for Family Planning: Recent Trends and their Implications for Programs. Obstacles other than physical access to services prevent many women from using family planning. This report underscores how unmet need for contraception can lead to unintended pregnancies, which pose risks for women, their families, and societies. (March 2003)

o The Wealth Gap in Health. Despite improvements in public health in the last half-century, large disparities still exist between and within countries in a range of health and population indicators: fertility, infant and child mortality, nutrition, and the use of family planning and other health services. (Health Bulletin and Data Sheet, May 2004)

o What was Cairo? The Promise and Reality of ICPD. This article, adapted from two of PRB's Population Bulletins, reviews the groundbreaking 1994 International Conference on Population and Development, its progress to date, and remaining challenges. (September 2004)

o The Unfinished Agenda: Meeting the needs for family planning in less developed countries. This policy brief shows how family planning programs have yielded dramatically positive gains over the past 50 years. In developing countries, about half of couples now use modern contraception. Despite these gains, contraceptive use is still low and the need high in some of the world's poorest and most populous places. (November 2004)

o Achieving the MDGs in the Middle East. Overall progress toward attaining the goals in the region is mixed at best, while unmet need for quality family planning and reproductive health care there remains high. (September 2005)

o Investing in Reproductive Health to Achieve Development Goals: The Middle East and North Africa. This PRB brief outlines how prioritizing women's reproductive health at a national level would help accelerate progress in the regional toward achieving the Millennium Development goals.(December 2005).